

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 OES-02 CU-02 EB-03

TRSE-00 L-02 INR-05 CIAE-00 SP-02 NEAE-00 /043 W

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2030

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 NEW DELHI 14611

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: USINJC, IN, US

SUBJ: JOINT COMMISSION FOLLOW-UP: COORDINATION OF USG

ACTIVITIES IN INDIA

REF: NEW DELHI 14387

SUMMARY: THE CURRENT IMPROVEMENT OF US-INDIAN RELATIONS HAS BEEN THE RESULT OF INDIAN INITIATIVES AND REQUESTS. THE AMBASSADOR BELIEVES THAT THE CARDINAL ELEMENT IN OUR FUTURE STRATEGY SHOULD BE TO KEEP INDIA IN THIS ASKING POSTURE. THEREFORE, WHILE WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE WHERE US INTERESTS ARE INVOLVED, WE BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD LARGELY LEAVE TO THE INDIANS HOW THEY WISH FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE SUBCOMMISSIONS TO PROCEED SINCE THOSE BODIES PRIMARILY PRODUCE ACTIONS OF BENEFIT TO INDIA. WITH THE USG GETTING INCREASINGLY INTO JOINT OPERATIONS WITH INDIA, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT ALL PROGRAMS BE EXAMINED FOR CONSISTENCY WITH US POLICIES AND STRATEGY BEFORE BEING DISCUSSED WITH THE GOI. THE AMBASSADOR HAS ESTABLISHED A PROGRAM COMMITTEE IN THE EMBASSY FOR THIS PURPOSE AND REQUESTS THAT THE DEPARTMENT CONTINUE TO INSURE THAT THE EMBASSY

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IS CONSULTED IN ADVANCE REGARDING ALL NEW PROGRAMS.

END SUMMARY.

1. WITH THE JOINT COMMISSION MEETING AND THE CHAVAN VISIT CONCLUDED WE BELIEVE THIS IS A GOOD TIME TO TAKE STOCK OF WHERE WE ARE IN US-INDIA RELATIONS. BRIEFLY STATED, THE GOI TOOK THE INITIATIVE TO IMPROVE US-INDIA RELATIONS DESPITE ASPECTS OF OUR POLICIES WHICH THEY DON'T LIKE (E.G. ARMS TO PAKISTAN). THEY UNABASHEDLY ASKED FOR AID AND FOOD AND ACCEPTED THE SECRETARY'S INVITATION FOR THE JOINT COMMISSION MEETING IN WASHINGTON. THEY GREATLY IMPROVED THE ATMOSPHERE IN INDIA FOR RELATIONS WITH THE US. FOR OUR PART, WE OUTDID OURSELVES IN PREPARING FOR THE JOINT COMMISSION MEETING AND ANCILLARY DISCUSSIONS WHICH TOOK PLACE AT THE SAME TIME, DOING MUCH MORE THAN THE INDIANS TO INSURE THAT THE WASHINGTON MEETINGS SHOWED PROGRESS.

2. THE QUESTION IS, WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? THE AMBASSADOR FIRMLY BELIEVES THAT THE CARDINAL ELEMENT IN OUR STRATEGY SHOULD BE TO KEEP THE INDIANS IN THE ASKING POSTURE IN WHICH THEY CAME TO WASHINGTON. MRS. GANDHI AND OTHERS AROUND HERE ARE STILL DEEPLY SUSPICIOUS OF US. WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO DO ONLY THOSE THINGS FOR HER GOVERNMENT WHICH HER GOVERNMENT SPECIFICALLY ASKS US TO DO. ON THE OTHER HAND WE SHOULD NOT HESITATE TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE TO ASK THE GOI TO DO THINGS WHICH BENEFIT THE US INTEREST. WE HAVE ALREADY EXPRESSED OUR VIEWS ON SCIENCE COOPERATION; THIS APPROACH SHOULD BE EXTENDED TO OTHER AREAS.

3. THE GOI IS MOVING ONLY VERY SLOWLY ON JOINT COMMISSION FOLLOW-UP, ALTHOUGH THE PACE DIFFERS ACCORDING TO THE FIELD. IN THE AREA OF SCIENCE, AS WE HAVE INDICATED ELSEWHERE (REFTEL), THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE ACHIEVEMENT SINCE THE FIRST S AND T MEETING. IN THE AREA OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE, PROGRESS IS BEING MADE TOWARD IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAMS DECIDED UPON AT THE NEW DELHI SUBCOMMISSION MEETING. IN THE ECONOMIC AREA IN PARTICULAR WE SEE LOTS OF WORDS BUT LITTLE ACTIVITY ON THE INDIAN SIDE. SENIOR ECONOMIC OFFICIALS ARE SO BUSY THAT THEY

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ARE UNABLE TO PAY PERSONAL ATTENTION TO FOLLOW-UP, AND SO FAR HAVE NOT DELEGATED RESPONSIBILITIES TO SUBORDINATES. IN THE NATURE OF THINGS, SOME PROJECTS AND AREAS LEND THEMSELVES TO SINGLE POINTS OF DECISION AND ACTION WITHIN THE GOI AND CAN THUS BE MOVED FAIRLY BRISKLY. OTHERS REQUIRE ELABORATE INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION, EXTENSIVE PREPARATIONS, AND POLITICAL JUDGEMENTS WHICH LEAD TO DELAYS, PROCRASTINATION, AND EVEN INACTIVITY.

WE SHOULD NOT BE OVERLY DISTURBED AT UNEVENNESS IN
PERFORMANCE NOR SHOULD WE OURSELVES FEEL COMPELLED TO
EXHIBIT CONTINUING ACHIEVEMENT IN OUR JOINT ENDEAVORS
WHEN THE INDIANS LAG BEHIND.

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ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 OES-02 CU-02 EB-03

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 NEW DELHI 14611

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4. JUST AS US INITIATIVES WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE
SHOWING OF ACHIEVEMENT IN THE OCTOBER JOINT COMMISSION
MEETING, THEY WOULD PROBABLY BE NECESSARY IF FUTURE
SUBCOMMISSION MEETINGS WERE TO PROCEED ON SCHEDULE AND
WERE TO SHOW A COMPARABLE ARRAY OF RESULTS. FOR EXAMPLE,
WE ANTICIPATE THAT THE PACE OF ECONOMIC DISCUSSIONS
WOULD BE MAINTAINED ONLY IF WE KEPT UP THE PRESSURE ON
THE INDIAN ECONOMIC MINISTRIES. BUT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH
OUR OVERALL APPROACH TO THE GOI, WE QUESTION THAT WE
SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE THE INITIATORS. PARTICULARLY IN
REGARD TO THE MEETINGS WHICH WILL BE HELD IN INDIA
(ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY) WE
BELIEVE WE SHOULD LEAVE IT TO THE GOI TO DECIDE HOW IT
WISHES TO PROCEED IN MEETINGS OF THE BODIES SINCE IT
WILL BE THE PRIMARY BENEFICIARY OF THEIR ACTIONS.
THERE MAY BE OCCASIONS WHEN WE MAY WANT TO MAKE AN
EXCEPTION TO THIS GENERAL APPROACH, PARTICULARLY IF WE
WANT TO MAKE IT CLEAR AT THE HIGH AND POLITICAL LEVEL
THAT DELAYS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF JOINT COMMISSION

ACTIVITIES ARE NOT OF OUR DOING. BUT WE DO NOT THINK
WE SHOULD CONTINUALLY JIGGLE THE ELBOWS OF THE BUREAUCRATS
AND WORKING LEVELS TO MOVE AHEAD, NOR BE EXCESSIVELY
ZEALOUS IN OUR PURSUIT EVEN OF THE POLITICAL MASTERS.
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OF COURSE, WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO TAKE INITIATIVES OF
INTEREST TO THE USG.

5. DURING THIS PERIOD WHEN WE ARE GETTING MORE INTO
JOINT OPERATIONS WITH THE GOI, IT IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT
THAT ALL JOINT ACTIVITIES BE CAREFULLY EXAMINED TO INSURE
THAT THEY ARE CONSISTENT WITH OUR POLICIES AND STRATEGY;
AND THE EMBASSY REQUESTS THAT IT BE CONSULTED ON SUCH
MATTERS. THERE HAVE BEEN CASES OF UNCOORDINATED
ACTIONS. WE HAVE ALREADY MENTIONED THE PROBLEM OF
DISCUSSING AID WITH INDIAN OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON BEFORE
WE HAVE DECIDED WHAT SORT OF PROGRAM IT IS IN OUR
INTEREST TO ENGAGE IN. ANOTHER CASE AROSE IN THE
AGRICULTURAL INPUTS WORKING GROUP WHEN THE US SIDE
PROPOSED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO INDIAN FERTILIZER PLANTS.
WHILE WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE USG WAS UNDER GREAT PRESSURE
TO DEAL PRODUCTIVELY WITH A LAST MINUTE COMPREHENSIVE
INDIAN AGENDA (AND THE RESULT WAS AN OUTSTANDING
ACHIEVEMENT), WE HAVE SERIOUS DOUBTS ABOUT GETTING BACK
INTO TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN INDIA CONSIDERING THE HIGH
AND POTENTIALLY INTRUSIVE AMERICAN PRESENCE IT WOULD
REQUIRE.

6. IN ORDER TO INSURE PROPER COORDINATION IN NEW DELHI,
THE AMBASSADOR HAS CREATED A PROGRAM COMMITTEE
REPRESENTING ALL US AGENCIES ENGAGED IN OPERATIONS IN
INDIA TO CONSIDER NEW AND CONTINUING OPERATIONS. IT
WILL BE THE PRIMARY DUTY OF THIS COMMITTEE TO INSURE
THAT ALL USG OPERATIONAL REA CONSISTENT WITH US STRATEGY
AND POLICY. FOR THIS COMMITTEE TO PERFORM ITS FUNCTIONS
ADEQUATELY IT WILL BE NECESSARY FOR THE DEPARTMENT --
AS IT IS ALREADY DOING VERY EFFECTIVELY IN MOST CASES --
TO INSURE THAT THE EMBASSY IS INFORMED OF OPERATIONAL
PLANS OF ALL US AGENCIES BEFORE ANY CONTACT IS MADE
WITH THE GOI. BUT FOR OPERATIONS TO BE PROPERLY
COORDINATED, WE MUST AGREE UPON THE POLICIES AND
STRATEGY WITH WHICH OPERATIONS ARE TO BE CONSISTENT.
WE HAVE PROPOSED SUCH POLICIES IN THIS MESSAGE AND PLAN
TO COORDINATE OPERATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEM.

7. REQUEST THE DEPARTMENT TO ASSURE THAT WASHINGTON
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AGENCIES ENGAGED IN OPERATIONS IN INDIA ARE
INFORMED OF THE CONTENTS OF THIS MESSAGE.
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